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ABSTRACT

LOCATING ITEMS

5   A mobile telecommunications device (10, 12, 14, 16) has both short range, piconet, telecommunications ability and long range cellular telecommunications ability. Mobile items of personal property, eg a pair of glasses (18) can be lost by an individual. The telecommunications devices (10, 12, 14, 16) keep an activity log of the times of existence and members of piconets of which they have been members. If a lost item (18) is not in the present piconet (26) of a user's device (10) it can backtrack through its activity log to find the last piconet for which both it and the missing item (18) were members, and can identify from the activity log what other devices (12, 14, 16) were present in that particular piconet. The device (10) can then contact the devices (12, 14, 16) and determine whether the missing item 18 is presently part of their piconet, and hence can locate the missing item if it is present in one of their piconets. The device may also geostamp its activity records and/or be aware of its geographical position.

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To be accompanied, when published, by Figure 3 of the drawings.